UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,397	12/10/2003	Ta-Wen Tai	NESP0001USA	1396

27765   7590   09/06/2007
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 506
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116

EXAMINER
LIU, LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2145	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/06/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu.uspto@gmail.com
Patent.admin.uspto.Rcv@naipo.com
mis.ap.uspto@naipo.com.tw

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _10 December 2003_.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _10 December 2003_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _08/01/2005_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is responsive to communications filed on 12/10/2003.

Claims 1-22 are pending and have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims **1 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being anticipated by

Arrow et al. (patent no.: US 6,154,839)

With respect to **claim 1,** Arrow teaches a network equipment management

system comprising:

a plurality of network equipments (Arrow, fig. 8 local machine 802, and col. 11,

lines 24-27, noted that the address translation unit 808 is part of VPN unit 115 as

described in fig. 1, thus end-stations 111-113 are also part of the network equipments);

a management computer, for managing the network equipments (Arrow, fig. 8,

remote machine 812); and

a management agent, coupled between the network equipments and the

management computer, for representing the management computer to manage the

network equipments (Arrow, fig. 8, Address Translation Unit 808);

wherein when the management agent receives a managing packet sent by the management computer, the management agent changes the address information of the managing packet to generate an agent managing packet, and sends the agent managing packet to a first network equipment (Arrow, col. 11, lines 55-67 and col. 12, lines 47-63, noted the source address field 823 is being modified); when the management agent receives a replying packet sent by the first network equipment, the management agent changes the address information of the replying packet to generate an agent replying packet, and sends the agent replying packet to the management computer (Arrow, col. 11, lines 55-67 and col. 13, lines 15-28, noted the destination address field 832 is being modified).

With respect to **claim 12,** Arrow teaches a method for allowing a management computer to manage a plurality of network equipments in a network system, the method comprising:

(a)providing a management agent coupled between the management computer and the network equipments (Arrow, fig. 8, Address Translation Unit 808);

(b)sending a managing packet to the management agent with the management computer (Arrow, col. 11, lines 55-67);

(c)changing the address information of the managing packet to generate an agent managing packet and then sending the agent managing packet to a first network equipment with the management agent (Arrow, col. 11, lines 55-67 and col. 12, lines 47-63, noted the source address field 823 is being modified) and

(d)performing corresponding operation(s) according to the agent managing

packet with the first network equipment (Arrow, col. 12, lines 64-67, noted that the local

machine sends reply packets).

4.   Claims **1-4, 7-9, 12-17 and 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being

anticipated by **Shibata (publication no.: US 2002/0133582 A1).**

With respect to **claim 1,** Shibata teaches a network equipment management

system comprising:

a plurality of network equipments (Shibata, fig. 1, and page 2, paragraph 45,

managed nodes 50 and 90);

a management computer, for managing the network equipments (Shibata, fig. 1,

and page 2, paragraphs 44 and 46, node 80); and

a management agent, coupled between the network equipments and the

management computer, for representing the management computer to manage the

network equipments (Shibata, fig. 1 and fig. 4, page 2, paragraphs 45, and 47,

management protocol proxy server 60b and NAT 20);

wherein when the management agent receives a managing packet sent by the

management computer, the management agent changes the address information of the

managing packet to generate an agent managing packet, and sends the agent

managing packet to a first network equipment (Shibata, page 3, paragraph 51, noted

the management protocol proxy data sent from node 80 to management protocol proxy

server 60b); when the management agent receives a replying packet sent by the first

network equipment, the management agent changes the address information of the replying packet to generate an agent replying packet, and sends the agent replying packet to the management computer (Shibata, page 3, paragraph 51, noted the management protocol proxy server 60b receives and translates the reply packet from node 50 to node 80).

With respect to **claim 2,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the management agent and the network equipments are located in a local area network (Shibata, fig. 1 and fig 4, noted that management protocol proxy server 60b and NAT 20 are connected with private network).

With respect to **claim 3,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 2, wherein the management agent and the network equipments use private IP addresses to communicate with each other (Shibata, fig. 4, and page 4, paragraph 57, noted NAT communicates with node 50 with private address L1).

With respect to **claim 4,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the management computer and the management agent use real IP addresses to communicate with each other through the Internet (Shibata, fig. 4, and pages 3-4, paragraphs 56 and 57, noted that NAT communicates with node 40 by global addresses G0 and G1).

With respect to **claim 7,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipment management system uses the SNMP protocol (Shibata, fig. 2 and page 3, paragraph 50).

With respect to **claim 8,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise network servers (Shibata, fig. 1, nodes 50 and 90).

With respect to **claim 9,** Shibata teaches the network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise information appliances (Shibata, fig. 1, nodes 50 and 90).

Claim 12 is substantially the same as **claim 1** and is thus rejected for reasons similar to those in rejecting **claim 1.** Furthermore regarding (d) performing corresponding operation(s) according to the agent managing packet with the first network equipment (Shibata, page 3, paragraph 51, noted that the node 50 sends the reply packet.).

With respect to **claim 13,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 12, wherein in step (c), the management agent changes the source address and the destination address of the managing packet to become the IP address of the management agent and the IP address of the first network equipment respectively, to generate the agent managing packet (Shibata, pages 3-4, paragraphs 51 and 56).

With respect to **claim 14,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 12, further comprising:

(e)sending a replying packet to the management agent with the first network equipment (Shibata, page 3, paragraph 51, noted that the node 50 sends reply packet to the management protocol proxy server 60b); and

(f)changing the address information of the replying packet to generate an agent

replying packet and then sending the agent replying packet to the management

computer with the management agent (Shibata, page 3, paragraph 51, noted the

management protocol proxy server 60b receives and translates the reply packet from

node 50 to node 80).

With respect to **claim 15,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 14, wherein in

step (f), the management agent changes the source address and the destination

address of the replying packet to become the IP address of the management agent and

the IP address of the management computer respectively, to generate the agent

replying packet (Shibata, pages 3-4, paragraphs 51 and 56).

With respect to **claim 16,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 14, wherein in the

agent managing packet and the replying packet, the source addresses and destination

addresses are private IP addresses (Shibata, fig. 4 and fig. 10, pages 3-4, paragraph 56

and page 5 paragraph 79).

With respect to **claim 17,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 14, wherein in the

managing packet and the agent replying packet, the source addresses and destination

addresses are real IP addresses (Shibata, pages 3-4, paragraph 56, noted that global

addresses G0 and G1).

With respect to **claim 22,** Shibata teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the

method uses the SNMP protocol (Shibata, fig. 2 and page 3, paragraph 50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   **Claims 5, 6, 10, 11, 20 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over **Shibata (publication no.: US 2002/0133582 A1)** in view of

Ramelson et al. (Publication no.: US 2004/0250059 A1).

With respect to **claims 10 and 11,** Shibata teaches all the claimed limitations,

except that he does not explicitly teach a method of providing network switches and

routers in the network equipments.

In the same field of endeavor, Ramelson teaches a method of providing network

switches and routers in the network equipments (Ramelson, fig. 4, and page 7,

paragraph 71).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to incorporate the method of providing network switches and

routers in the network equipments as taught by Ramelson in Shibata's invention in order

to allow more servers to be connected and managed by the same management agent.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, Shibata teaches a method of employing SNMP

protocol of the application layer in the network equipment management system

(Shibata, page 3, paragraph 50). Shibata fails to teach a method of employing HTTP

and TELNET protocols in the network equipment management system.

In the same field of endeavor, Ramelson teaches a method of employing HTTP

and TELNET protocols in a remote monitoring system (Ramelson, page 7, paragraph

74).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to incorporate the method of employing HTTP and TELNET

protocols in a remote monitoring system as taught by Ramelson in Shibata's invention

in order to provide additional protocols for the system manager to manage the servers.

Claims 20 and 21 are substantially the same as claims 5 and 6, thus they are

rejected under the same rationale claims 5 and 6.

7.   **Claims 18 and 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over **Shibata (publication no.: US 2002/0133582 A1)** in view of **Nag et al.**

(Publication no.: US 2006/0020694 A1).

With respect to **claim 18**, Shibata teaches the method of claim 12, further

comprising:

(g)using the management computer to establish a connection with the

management agent through the Internet (Shibata, fig. 1 and 4, pages 2-3, paragraph 47,

noted that global network connection between node 80 and management protocol proxy

server 60b and NAT 20);

(h)after the connection between the management computer and the

management agent has been established, sending status information of the network

equipments to the management computer with the management agent (Shibata, page

3, paragraph 51, noted the data communication between the manager node 40 of node

80 and managed nodes 50 and 90).

However, Shibata does not explicitly teach a method of showing the status

information of the network equipments on a controlling window of a screen with the

management computer.

In the same field of endeavor, Nag teaches a method of showing the status

information of the network equipments on a controlling window of a screen (Nag, fig. 3

and 5, pages 4-5, paragraphs 59 and 66, noted the administrator GUI shows the

presences of servers).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to incorporate the method of administrator GUI as taught by

Nag in Shibata's invention in order to easily identify the nodes by moving the cursor.

With respect to **claim 19,** Shibata teaches all the claimed limitations except that

he does not explicitly teach a method of (j)using the controlling window to choose a

target network equipment within the network equipments with the management

computer; (h)setting the chosen network equipment as the first network equipment with

the management agent; and (j)showing a managing window on the screen for managing

the first network equipment with the management computer.

In the same field of endeavor, Nag teaches a method of (j)using the controlling

window to choose a target network equipment within the network equipments with the

management computer (Nag, page 5, paragraph 66, noted that user may choose the

node by positioning cursor over the graphical representation of the node); (h)setting the

chosen network equipment as the first network equipment with the management agent

(Nag, page 5, paragraph 66, noted that user may choose the node by positioning

cursor over the graphical representation of the node); and (j)showing a managing

window on the screen for managing the first network equipment with the management

computer (Nag, page 5, paragraph 66).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to incorporate the method of administrator GUI as taught by

Nag in Shibata's invention in order to easily identify the nodes by moving the cursor.

Conclusion

8.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure:

- Knight (patent no.: US 6,892,234 B2) discloses a multi-tiered enterprise

  management system using private ip addressed network architecture to achieve

  high level of reliability and faster deployments.

- Christy (Patent no.: US 6,725,264 B1) discloses a method for redirection of

  network management messages in a cluster of network devices.

- Leichter et al. (Publication no.: US 2002/0165982 A1) discloses a method of implementing a managed network services for customers with duplicated IP networks.

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Liu whose telephone number is (571) 270-1447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

L.Liu
08/28/2007

JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER